

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
June 10, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

INVOCATION: Reverend Bill Hudson- First Presbyterian Church

ROLLCALL: Mr. Widing was absent. All other members were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

Proclamation Honoring Sgt. Brian Leonhardt, Mr. Hardaway made a motion to make the month of June 2014 Sgt. Brian Leonhardt month and Mr. Spann seconded. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

Mrs. Miano stated that she would like a council member to make a motion that the gazebo located at the Merrillville Town Hall to be dedicated as a memorial in honor of Sgt. Brian Leonhardt. Mr. Hardaway made a motion and Mr. Spann seconded. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval June 10, 2014. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2014. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barron seconded. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

PUBLIC WORKS: 73rd Ave will be closed for six to eight weeks between Virginia and Mississippi as they refurbish the over I-65. Mr. Hardaway requested the town alert the residents that branches should be taken to the North barn rather than the Public Works 73rd location. Mr. Hardaway was informed that Gary has opened 53th Ave paving bids.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: No report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Goralczyk announced that there was a workshop held to discuss purchasing radios for the town; purchasing new radios would put the town in compliance with the E 911 Consolidation. During the workshop it was determined that Motorola Solutions, Inc. would be the vendor the town would purchase the radios from. Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to approve the purchase agreement of new radios from Motorola Solutions, Inc. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. Mr. Pettit noted that (per-discussion at the workshop) the town would enter into a 5-year lease agreement, with the first payment not being until 2015. The motion was approved 6/0 roll call vote.

Lease agreement by department is as follows:

Fire Department:	\$ 645,593.70
Police Department:	\$ 346,338.10
EMA:	\$ 28,723.75

Total purchase \$ 1,020,655.55

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mr. Spann made a motion to approve Wirtes park improvements not to exceed \$75,000.00 and Mr. Goralczyk seconded the motion.

Public hearing was open regarding disposal of vacant parcels of surplus land. No public comment.

Mr. Spann made a motion to approve disposal of vacant parcels of surplus land (Hendricks Park, 3694 W. 80th Lane, Merrillville, Indiana and Lot 1 of Union Park, 7200 Broadway, Merrillville, Indiana also to engage a licensed auctioneer to conduct a public auction of the parcels and Mr. Pettit questioned what Lot 1 pertained, Mrs. Miano confirmed it was the white house. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. Mr. Goralczyk asked if Rick Niemeyer would be used again. Mr. Bushemi stated yes. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Lake provided updates regarding Stormwater: Stormwater welcomed a new member to their board, Ralph Semic. An application was completed to be submitted to Calumet River Basin Commission to fund a series of flood control projects in the Meadow Dale sub-water shed. Stormwater is continuing to become a Clean Community. And Stormwater is continuing of their infrastructure replacement.

Mr. Pettit mentioned he spoke Derek Oswald regarding guard rail on Taft Street near Dairy Queen. It is now being looked at. Mr. Lake stated he emailed Derek the plan profiles for the ditch. If that cross section required guard rails before then they would then install it.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Town of Merrillville's Fourth of July Parade will be July 3, 2014 at 7 p.m. A farms market will be held the second and fourth Sunday in July and August from noon to 3 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.

UTILITY LIAISON: Mrs. Barron is still waiting to meet with Jeff Lagbehen regarding recycle products the town can receive from Solid Waste Management.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION: Mrs. Miano reiterated that Merrillville is not exempt to abandon homes, this leads to an increase in crime. Many of the abandon homes are nice they just need attention. Mrs. Miano created a committee Abandon and Blighted Properties, with a possible focus on Merrillville disabled veterans, veterans then to any resident to come and take advantages of the homes. Mrs. Miano appointed Mr. Hardaway as head of committee, Mr. Spann and Mr. Guernsey as committee members. Mr. Hardaway asked Mr. Bushemi to meet with the committee and for town council members to identify any homes in their ward that are abandoned by the first Town Council Meeting in July. Mr. Bushemi stated he is available to the committee to review basics of Senate Enrolled Act 422. The first step of the committee is to compile an accurate inventory of vacant and abandon homes with in the town's jurisdiction.

ADA COMPLIANCES: No Report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 14-17: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, providing that the zoning ordinance Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana be amended by changing the established R-2, single family residential to a planned unit development, mixed use zoning classification. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit seconded. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 14-19: Ordinance 12-44 amended of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending ordinance 07-15 establishing hours, days and limitations in which consumer fireworks may be used, ignited, or discharged. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway seconded. Mr. Pettit questioned what about streets, are residents allowed? Mrs. Miano stated no they are not allowed. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 14-20: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, approving a lease for Certain public improvements between the Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Authority and the Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Commission, and approving the levy of a special tax to the extent tax increment revenues are insufficient for the payment of rentals under such lease, and regarding certain related matters. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Goralczyk seconded. Mr. Pettit stated this is for the Ameriplex bond refinance; this will save the town on interest reducing it to approximately 3.4%. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS: No report.

BZA ACTIONS: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: No report.

NEW BUSINESS: No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on cassette tape and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Environment Resource Committee meeting, June 19, 2014 @ 2:00 p.m.

Redevelopment Commission Meeting, June 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Town Council meeting, June 24, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Carol Miano- President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer